

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Thane M. Larson et al.

Serial No.: 09/924,163

Filed: August 7, 2001

Docket No.: 10012383-1

Title: DEDICATED SERVER MANAGEMENT CARD WITH HOT SWAP FUNCTIONALITY

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed March 12, 2004. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-15, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,591,324 ("Chen"). Claims 4, 10, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen. Claims 5, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Bassman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,295,567 ("Bassman").

With this Response, claims 1, 2, 4, 14, and 15 have been amended. Claims 1-19 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, 12-15, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,591,324 ("Chen"). Independent claim 1, as amended herein, includes the limitations "a plurality of printed circuit assemblies including a plurality of host processor cards" and "a management card" Independent claim 8 includes the limitations "providing a plurality of host processor cards . . ." and "providing a dedicated management card" Chen does not teach or suggest a server system that includes a plurality of host processor cards and a management card. Rather, as shown in Figure 2 of Chen, for example, the system 100 includes an I/O card 106, a SCSI card 108, a network card 110, and two processor cards 120. Thus, Chen does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 1 or independent claim 8.

In view of the above, independent claims 1 and 8 are not taught or suggested by Chen. In addition, dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, and 13, which further limit patentably distinct claim 1 or claim 8, are also believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, and 13 are also further distinguishable over the cited reference. For example, Chen does not teach or suggest a management card that includes a LAN switch as recited in claim 2, a management card that includes a plurality of LEDs as recited in claims 6 and 12, a management card that includes a plurality of serial ports as recited in claims 7 and 13, or monitoring management LAN communications of a plurality of host processor cards with the management card as recited in claim 9. Allowance of claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, and 13, is respectfully requested.

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Independent claim 14 is directed to a “management-dedicated server management card”, and as amended herein, includes the limitation “a multiple-port LAN switch coupled to the controller and configured to be coupled to a management connection of at least one of the plurality of removable cards”. Chen does not teach or suggest a management-dedicated server management card with a multiple-port LAN switch as recited in independent claim 14. Chen discloses that the two processor cards 120 (Figure 2) are connected together via communications line 140. (Chen at col. 4, lines 25-26). Chen further discloses that “[t]his communication line 140 may be of any sort, preferably using a standard port. Examples include using a local area networking (LAN) connection, a serial connection (such as RS-232), a universal serial bus (USB) connection, or a fiber channel connection.” (Chen at col. 4, lines 29-34). Thus, Chen indicates that the two processor cards 120 could be connected together via a LAN connection. However, these cited portions of Chen do not teach or suggest that either of the two processor cards 120 includes a LAN switch as recited in independent claim 14. There is also no teaching or suggestion in Chen that the power switching circuitry 112, signal switching circuitry 114, or the PCI circuitry 116 (all shown in Figure 2), is a LAN switch, includes a LAN switch, or that any of the processor cards 120 could or should be modified to include a LAN switch. Thus, Chen does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 14.

In view of the above, independent claim 14 is not taught or suggested by Chen. In addition, dependent claims 15, 18, and 19, which further limit patentably distinct claim 14, are also believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Dependent claims 15, 18, and 19 are also further distinguishable over the cited reference. For example, Chen does not teach or suggest a management card that includes a LAN switch that is coupled to the management connections of a plurality of removable cards for monitoring management LAN communications as recited in claim 15, a management card that includes a plurality of LEDs as recited in claim 18, or a management card that includes a plurality of serial ports as recited in claim 19. Allowance of claims 14, 15, 18, and 19, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 10, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen. Dependent claims 4, 10, and 16, further limit patentably distinct

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claims 1, 8, and 14, respectively, are further distinguishable over the cited reference, and are believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Allowance of claims 4, 10, and 16, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 11, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Bassman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,295,567 ("Bassman"). Dependent claims 5, 11, and 17, are dependent on claims 1, 8, and 14, respectively. As described above with respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 14, Chen does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of these independent claims. Bassman also does not teach or suggest the limitations of independent claims 1, 8, and 14, addressed above. Since dependent claims 5, 11, and 17, further limit patentably distinct claims 1, 8, and 14, respectfully, and are further distinguishable over the cited references, claims 5, 11, and 17, are believed to be allowable over the cited references. Allowance of claims 5, 11, and 17, is respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Specification

With this Amendment, Applicant has amended page 4 of the specification to correct typographical errors. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the amendment, and respectfully requests entry of the amendment to the specification.

Allowable Subject Matter

In light of the above, Applicant believes independent claims 1, 8, 14, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Jeff A. Holmen at Telephone No. (612) 573-0178, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005 or David A. Plettner at Telephone No. (408) 447-3013, Facsimile No. (408) 447-0854. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 25th day of May, 2004.

By Jeff A. Holmen
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